The following icons denote stories related to key goals of SSA’s strategic vision, entitled *Challenging Students to Think Expansively, Act Ethically and Lead Responsibly.*

For more information, visit shadysideacademy.org/strategicvision.
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CORRECTION

In the Alumni Events section of the summer issue, Doug Spear ’91 was improperly identified as Josh Kamin ’88.
DEAR SHADY SIDE ACADEMY COMMUNITY:

Most people are under that impression that schools shut down for the summer shortly after commencement. Nothing could be further from the truth at Shady Side. In fact, on most summer days, we have more children and staff on campus than we do during the actual school year. Camps, summer school and special programs attract so many children and families to our beautiful campuses.

While there is so much activity on campus during these months, summer is also a time when our facilities team embarks on projects that can't be completed while school is in session. This past summer was exceptional for the amount of work completed. In a very short span of time, we saw the transformation of two spaces: Morewood House on the Senior School campus and the science classrooms at the Junior School.

These two projects reflect the Board of Trustees’ commitment to two strategic initiatives: seven-day boarding and the improvement of our PK-12 science facilities. Even without seven-day boarding, the Morewood renovation was long overdue and necessary. With the seven-day program, we added amenities and essential items to the scope of the project, including a kitchenette in the common room, a laundry room, video surveillance and a key fob security system. I think the girls would agree that Morewood looks amazing.

Many of you may know that the Junior School science lab wasn't even a stop on the admissions tour prior to this year. It was dark, dreary and not well laid out. The summer renovation project has made the science spaces a showcase. With five discreet learning areas (two classrooms, an ecosystem lab, a science idea lab, and a robotics and maker space), windows into and between classrooms, and the clever harnessing of natural light, the space is now a joy to be in. Rather than avoiding the space, it’s now one of the highlights of the admissions tour.

I am proud of the work that was done this past summer. Nothing is more gratifying than seeing the faces of the students and teachers who benefit from these improvements. I am also grateful to the individuals and families whose generosity helped to make these projects possible.

I look forward to the next round of projects that move us closer to our strategic goals: the renovation of the seventh grade science classroom – hopefully next summer – and the construction of a Center for Science and Innovation at the Senior School. Through many decades, the financial support of the Shady Side community – alumni, parents, and friends – has made Shady Side what it is today. The continued generosity of our community will be required to take the Academy to the next great phase of its history.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Cangiano
Academy President
SSA Launches Richard F. Gregory Visiting Writers Series

AUTHOR STEWART O’NAN VISITS SENIOR SCHOOL

Shady Side Academy Senior School launched the Richard F. Gregory Visiting Writers Series with a visit by Pittsburgh native and best-selling author Stewart O’Nan on Dec. 11. The new series will bring a different author to campus each year to speak and work with students as part of the English curriculum.

The series is named in memory of the late Richard F. “Dick” Gregory, who taught English at Shady Side for 36 years (1953-1989) and passed away in 2014. Known for his outspoken nature and distinctive teaching style, Gregory inspired generations of SSA students. The idea for the series came from an anonymous donor, who provided initial funding in the hope that others who were also impacted by Gregory will contribute to keep his memory alive.

Stewart O’Nan, son of SSA alumnus Lee O’Nan ’49, is the author of 15 novels including The Odds, Emily Alone, Snow Angels and Last Night at the Lobster, which was a national best-seller and a Los Angeles Times Book Prize finalist. He was born and raised in Pittsburgh, where he lives with his family.

O’Nan spent a full day at the Senior School, speaking at all-school assembly, discussing his books in English classes, and working with aspiring young writers. He spent a full class period with each of the Foundations II English sections discussing Last Night at the Lobster, which all sophomores read in advance. Juniors and seniors in the English elective Literature of Pittsburgh, who read some of O’Nan’s short stories, also spent a class period with the author. Over lunch, O’Nan enjoyed a discussion with a small group of faculty members who read The Odds. In the afternoon, O’Nan held a writing workshop for aspiring student writers in grades 9-12. Approximately 10 students enjoyed interacting with O’Nan in a small group setting, where he spoke about topics such as character and plot development, and he also evaluated some writing samples the students prepared in advance.

Anyone interested in supporting the Richard F. Gregory Visiting Writers Series should contact Director of Development Rick Munroe ’84 at 412-968-3044 or rmunroe@shadysideacademy.org.
World Affairs Institute for Student Leaders

On Nov. 17, juniors Sameer Annamraju, Kirsten Forrest, Ian Holland and Alex Zhang joined Senior School faculty members Kyle Smith and Karen Serdy in attending the 45th Annual World Affairs Institute for Student Leaders at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh. The institute is a collaboration between the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh and Rotary International. Its objective is to engage high school student leaders in a discussion of key issues in international affairs so they can understand and think critically about their world. Approximately 350 juniors and seniors are selected to attend each year.

Princeton Symposium

Senior Abbie Minard was one of 90 high school seniors nationwide selected to participate in Princeton University’s annual Creative Arts and Humanities Symposium. The program, which took place Oct. 16-18 on Princeton’s campus, is an occasion for talented students to get a taste of studying the creative arts and humanities at the university level. All expenses associated with the trip were covered by Princeton.

National Merit Honors

Five seniors were named semifinalists in the 61st annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented students will continue in the competition for 7,400 National Merit Scholarships worth more than $32 million that will be offered in spring 2016. There are approximately 16,000 semifinalists nationwide. The Shady Side semifinalists are Shaan Fye, Michael Kann, Roy Navid, Juliana Sandford and Amanda Williams.

Cohen Prizes Awarded

Prizes were awarded at a community assembly to three students for their achievements in the 2014-2015 school year. The John H. Cohen Family Award is a book given for general improvement in scholarship, physical vigor, citizenship and character. The winners were current sophomore Lucas Keenan, junior Will Stewart and senior Kyle O’Connor.

PMEA Honors

For the second straight year, sophomore Justin Yuan was selected to participate in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 1 Honors Band in November. Yuan earned a place as a second clarinet player. Junior Christopher Ferree and AnnaElaine Rosengart were selected to play in the PMEA District 1 Honors Jazz Festival in December. Ferree played the drums, while Rosengart played trombone in the second section, fourth chair.
World Languages Teachers Present at Convention

Five world languages teachers presented at the American Council of the Teaching of Foreign Languages Convention held in San Diego, Calif., in November. Middle School teachers Kelli Wood, Andrea Cespedes, Mandy Fong and Rhett Jenkins presented “Middle School FLEX Program – Making It Work in Your School,” which demonstrated how the FLEX (Foreign Language Experience) program was designed at the Middle School. In the FLEX program, sixth graders take one trimester each of Latin, Spanish and Mandarin Chinese, and learn the fundamentals to be successful in future world language study. Senior School Chinese teacher Xiaoxia Xu co-presented “Engaging Learners in Cultural Content Through Theme-Based Instruction” with professors from Carnegie Mellon and Pitt, which explored how to connect language and culture through content-informed, theme-based instruction.

New Pre-Kindergarten Outdoor Spaces

This year, Shady Side Academy’s youngest students are learning through play in several new outdoor learning spaces.

Over the summer, the grounds surrounding the pre-kindergarten building on the Junior School campus – which previously included a playset, sandbox and garden – were enhanced with the addition of an outdoor art studio, a mud kitchen, a sensory garden, a sound garden with musical instruments, a cozy space, and a gross motor area with tire balance beam. These new spaces extend the PK classroom to the outdoors, inviting children to investigate, explore, discover and experiment in the natural world.

The Junior School pre-kindergarten, art and science teachers created the spaces themselves using funds from a summer curriculum grant. The spaces were built using recycled materials from Construction Junction and the Center for Creative Reuse, both of which are located just a few blocks from campus. Some materials from the school’s old science lab, which was renovated over the summer, were repurposed in the spaces as well.

“Outdoor learning has a positive impact on children’s well-being and development,” said pre-kindergarten teacher Shannon Sciulli. “The PK team wanted to create an environment that offers children opportunities for physical activities, freedom and movement, while also allowing for creativity, problem solving, imaginative play and social interaction.”

“The beauty of the outdoor space in the PK playground is its open-endedness,” said Junior School Head Ellen McConnell. “Children can take their learning and their fun wherever they want it to go. The cozy space can become a pirate ship, the sound garden can become a rock concert venue, and the sensory garden can become a fairyland. The children have an incredible time learning and being joyful.”
PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

In October, Shady Side hosted the parent education program “Communicating With Your Growing Daughter,” led by Nancy Gruver, founder of New Moon Girls Media. In January, SSA hosted a screening and discussion of the education documentary Most Likely to Succeed. Both events were free and open to the public.

Students Hear PA Supreme Court Arguments

Nine Senior School students had the opportunity to hear arguments in a variety of cases presented to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania on Oct. 6, at the City/County Building in Pittsburgh. The students, many of whom are members of the Speech and Debate Team, heard cases including an appeal of a death sentence and a contractor vs. homeowner dispute. Students also had the chance to meet Justice Max Baer, who spoke to the group and answered questions during a break.

SSA to Host International Speech & Debate Championship

This spring, Shady Side Academy will welcome speech and debate students from around the world when the Senior School plays hosts to the 28th Annual World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championship (WIDPSC) from March 30 through April 5.

Approximately 125 high school students from independent schools who have won or ranked highly in preliminary and/or regional competitions will compete in the weeklong international championship. Countries recently represented at WIDPSC include: Australia, Botswana, Canada, China, Cyprus, England, Germany, Hong Kong, Israel, India, Lithuania, Pakistan, South Africa, South Korea, United States and Zimbabwe.

The competition is conducted entirely in English, and students compete in four events. Three events are required of every competitor – Impromptu Speaking, Parliamentary Debating and Interpretive Reading – and the fourth event is either After Dinner Speaking or Persuasive Speaking, whichever the competitor chooses. The tournament includes two rounds of each event, plus the finals and grand finals.

Tournament organizers Kate Vavpetic, Senior School head, and Mary Krauland, Senior School dean of studies and speech and debate coach, have an incredible week of activities planned for the international visitors. In addition to the competition events on campus, competitors and coaches will enjoy a Gateway Clipper dinner cruise, a trip to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and a closing banquet at the Heinz History Center.

SSA speech and debate students have competed in the WIDPSC for the last three years, traveling to Hong Kong, Lithuania and South Africa.

Learn more at www.shadysideacademy.org/worlds2016.
Middle School Hosts Robotics Scrimmage

The Middle School hosted the Shady Side Open, a FIRST LEGO League competitive robotics scrimmage, on Nov. 14. Twenty area robotics teams, including three SSA teams, participated in the event. The Middle School Gold and Blue Robotics Teams, coached by faculty members Matt Brunner and Rhett Jenkins, completed several “Trash Trek Challenge” missions, including knocking down a building, placing an octopus in the safety zone and loading a truck for the recycling plant. The Junior School Robotics Team, coached by science teacher Jeff McCarroll, also competed at the scrimmage with the help of Senior School Robotics Team members, juniors Tom Scherlis and Collin Flaherty.

PHSSL Drama Festival All-State Cast

A team of Senior School theater students competed in the Pennsylvania High School Speech League (PHSSL) Drama Festival, held Dec. 11-12 at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pa. SSA placed fourth as a team, and juniors Rylee Hickey and Caldwell Holden were honored for their acting performances by being named to the PHSSL All-State Cast. Students performing for SSA included Hickey, Holden, seniors Abbie Minard and Kyle O’Connor, juniors Jacob Lokay, Leonard McAllister and Rachel Winterhalter and sophomore Felicia Devorris.

Student’s Play Selected for Young Playwrights Festival

Senior Sarah Scheid’s one-act play ‘Til Death Do Us Part earned an honorable mention in the City Theatre Company’s 2015 Young Playwrights Contest. The play received a professional staged public reading at the Young Playwrights Festival on Oct. 9, at the Lester Hamburg Studio on Pittsburgh’s South Side.

TEDxYouth@Shadyside Organized by SSA Students

Seven Senior School students organized TEDxYouth@Shadyside, an independently organized TED event, at the August Wilson Center on Dec. 5. The event was a collaborative effort between the student organizers, TiE Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust and several local supporters and featured 12 speakers under the theme “Revolutions.” Senior Shaan Fye was the founder and co-organizer of TEDxYouth@Shadyside, and the organizing committee also included seniors Ishan Muzumdar, Maria Jovin, Lauren Kossman and Juliana Sandford, and juniors Sophia Scherlis and Kirsten Forrest. Learn more about the event at tedxyouthshadyside.com.
Third Annual Global Action Conference Day

For the third straight year, Middle School students devoted an entire day to service learning during Global Action Conference Day, held Oct. 26. Students spent the day learning about complex social issues from local nonprofit organizations and engaging in meaningful hands-on service activities. The goal of the day is to raise awareness and educate students about global issues while empowering them to impact change on a local level: i.e., to think globally and act locally. Sixth grade students learned about the importance of clean water, then traveled to Frick Park to help clean up a creek together with the Nine Mile Run Watershed Association. Seventh graders learned about native pollinators from the Audubon Society of Western PA, then dug a plot of land on campus for a new native pollinator garden. Eighth graders were tasked with using recycled materials to build a model town that met the needs of a human community, then learned about food deserts (neighborhoods without grocery stores or access to fresh food) from Heritage Community Initiatives.

Freshmen Perform Service Work

On Nov. 19, the freshman class enjoyed a daylong retreat at nearby Aspinwall Riverfront Park that combined community service work and class bonding. More than 100 students spent the morning weeding garden beds, planting bulbs, raking leaves, stringing up holiday lights, installing a public ice skating rink and more. After a morning of hard work, the students enjoyed a brown-bag lunch and some afternoon games in the park.
Fourth Annual Miracle League Clinic
On Oct. 24, the SSA Baseball Club conducted the fourth annual Miracle League Baseball Clinic for special needs players at Pirates Charities Miracle League Field in Cranberry Township, Pa. During the clinic, 10 SSA baseball players worked with special needs children on the fundamentals of baseball, including hitting and fielding, then enjoyed an inter-squad game with the kids. The Miracle League Baseball Clinic was founded in 2012 by Andrew Scherbarth '15 and the SSA Baseball Club, which is comprised of baseball players who wish to combine their love of the sport with community service.

The Crucible
The Senior School Gargoyle Society presented the fall student drama, Arthur Miller’s The Crucible, to sold-out audiences on Nov. 6-8. The play starred junior Peter Foster as John Proctor, junior Felicia Reuter as Elizabeth Proctor and junior Kerry Broker as Abigail Williams. The cast consisted of 30 students and was directed by faculty member Dana Hardy-Bingham.

Wear a Hat For Cancer Day
Shady Side Academy joined the fight against childhood cancer when all three campuses participated in Wear a Hat for Cancer Day on Oct. 2, raising more than $1,000 for Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh. The effort was coordinated in part by senior Blake Goodman, whose sister, Samantha Goodman ‘13, is a childhood cancer survivor who helped establish the first Wear a Hat for Cancer Day in 2011.

No-Shave November
Approximately 35 male students and teachers at the Senior School raised $410 for cancer awareness and research by participating in “No-Shave November.” Seniors Will George and Eric Barnfather spearheaded the fundraising effort, and all funds were donated to the American Cancer Society. Students participating were given permission to have “fuzzy faces” for a month in support of this very worthy cause.

Turkey Fund
Middle School students raised $925 for the KDKA-TV Turkey Fund through a dress-down day fundraiser driven by the eighth grade class on Nov. 19. The amount raised helped to feed more than 60 local families on Thanksgiving, and the students’ efforts were featured on KDKA-TV news.

A Murder Mystery
The Middle School Drama Dragons presented the fall play The Murder Mystery at the Murder Mystery for parents and guests on Nov. 13. The cast for the humorous play-within-a-play included 14 students in grades 6-8 and was co-directed by English teacher Camille MacRae and music teacher Randy Broker.
Homecoming at Shady Side Academy is an honored tradition when the entire SSA community is welcomed back to Pittsburgh and the Senior School campus. This year the occasion was celebrated on Sept. 25-26, 2015. Reunion classes included those ending in 0s and 5s, with the class of 1965 celebrating its 50th reunion and the class of 1990 celebrating its 25th reunion.

The festivities got underway first thing Friday morning with a group playing in the Alumni Golf Outing at Longue Vue Club. Meanwhile, The Pittsburgh Trolley Tour departed campus for a guided tour of Pittsburgh, including stops downtown, the North Shore, Station Square and Mt. Washington, and concluding with a round trip on the Duquesne Incline. Lunch followed at Atrias in PNC Park, home of the Pirates. Other alums and guests chose to stay back and visit classes to see what it’s like to be a student at Shady Side in 2015. In addition, on Friday afternoon, Senior School students and faculty had the chance to meet Paul Seltman ’85 and David French ’85, who gave a presentation and answered questions about their work as lobbyists in Washington, D.C.
On Friday evening, the Memorial Service celebrated and remembered the lives of alumni and faculty lost in the past year. The presider of the moving service was alumnus Rev. Clancy Nixon ’75. The SSA Chamber Choir, under the direction Dr. Dan Brill, brought attendees to tears when they surrounded the room to perform Will the Circle Be Unbroken? Following the service, alumni and guests visited the Alumni Art Show in the Benedum Visual Arts Center featuring the work of alumni artist Andy Matia ’04. Portions of Matia’s show were also on display in the Hillman Center for Performing Arts through December 2015.

The celebratory nature of Homecoming could not be mistaken at the Alumni and Faculty Mixer in McCune Dining Hall, where attendees ate, drank and reunited with friends, classmates and teachers. A few alums came from as far away as China while others made a short drive up Fox Chapel Road. The evening included a brief welcome from Academy President Tom Cangiano and the presentation of the Robert E. Walker Award and the Paul R. Pigman ’52 Prize. This year’s recipient of the Walker Award was Lou Plung ’80 for his dedication, commitment and service to the Academy as an alumni, trustee and parent. As co-chair of the capital campaign, Plung spoke of his gratitude to SSA and its faculty for reinforcing key values at an important time in his life, as well as how proud he was to be a part of an institution that is building on a great foundation.
The Pigman Prize was awarded to U.S. Marine Capt. Jack Dingess ’05 for his military service. Dingess’ classmates nominated him for the award, and he accepted it via Skype while serving overseas in Japan. He spoke of the pride he continues to feel as a part of the SSA community. The evening concluded with a gathering of friends and family from the Class of 1990 on the J. Michael Grzymkowski ’90 Terrace. Old friends reconnected and enjoyed a fire in the space that was named in memory of their classmate.

Homecoming events on Saturday began early in the morning with the annual Al Stewart Memorial Shady Stride. Al Stewart’s grandson and son, Will Stewart ’17 and George Stewart ’81, officially started the 5K race, and Christian Stillson ’05 was the first alum to cross the finish line. All of the participants finished the race and recalled just how unfriendly the SSA cross country course remains. In the meantime, SSA athletic teams began taking the field for their Homecoming matchups throughout the day.

The President’s Coffee and Campus Walking Tours were well-attended by alumni and families interested in meeting President Cangiano and taking a walk down memory lane to discover the many changes on campus. Many groups took small detours to locate their graduation bricks along the pathway outside of Rowe Hall. Current student admissions ambassadors Maria Jovin ’16 and Emily Winterhalter ’17 led the tours.

The brisk fall morning turned into a warm and sunny afternoon while families enjoyed the Kids Carnival with its petting zoo and inflatables. The Blue & Gold Community Tailgate offered a space to share a meal and memories with classmates and faculty. As tradition has it, the Captains Ceremony took place during halftime of the football game, when reunion class athletic team captains were welcomed onto the field and honored for their leadership at SSA.

What some would consider the main events – the class reunions – were held for classes ending in 0s and 5s throughout Pittsburgh, as well as on campus. Former faculty members and the Alumni & Development staff visited reunions to say hello and welcome alums back once again.

Classes ending in 1s and 6s will be celebrating their reunions in the fall of 2016. The Homecoming date is yet to be determined. If you are interested in helping with your class reunion, it’s not too early to contact Jamie Scott ’98 at 412-968-3032 or jscott@shadysideacademy.org.
1. Members of the Class of 2005 with U.S. Marine Capt. Jack Dingess ‘05 (on screen), winner of the Paul R. Pigman ’52 Prize
2. The President’s Coffee
3. President Tom Cangiano congratulates Al Stewart Memorial Shady Stride winner Christian Stillson ‘05
4. Members of the Class of 2010 take a selfie during halftime festivities
5. Members of the Class of 1980, Bruce Masterson, Ralph Demmler and Tom Graham
6. Junior School students sing the alma mater at the football game
7. The football team takes the field
**HOMECOMING 2015**

**CLASS CAPTAINS**

1. 1950 – Ted Hoopes and John Steel
2. 1955 – George Graham
3. 1960 – Ray Conway
4. 1965 – Bruce Wiegand, Ray Bernabei, Bill Succop, Bob Maloney ‘64 and Bill Cooper
5. 1970 – Mike Casey
6. 1975 – Clancy Nixon and Sandy Sherrard
7. 1980 – Dan Fawcett, Timothy Isaly, Michael Hardie, Clare (Henry) Doughterty, Tom Graham
8. 1985 – Glenn Berkey
10. 1995 – Tim Casey, Aaron Adler, Amy Shelby, Roland Criswell, Ben Hartner, Eric Levicoff
12. 2005 – Ben Schmerin, Nick Macpherson, Jim Ambrose, Kathryn Egan, Tancredi Calabrese
CLASS REUNIONS

1. Class of 1945 – Harry Bechman and Jack Smiley
2. Class of 1950 – First row: John Steel, Benny Benedum, Dick Kappel, Jack Demmler
   Second row: Ted Hoopes, Phil Heyman, Arthur Evans, Jim Smith, Herb Ferguson, Tony Cook, Dick Cuda, Ted Scheetz
3. Class of 1955 – First row: Dave Steele, George Graham, Larry Niemann
   Second row: Bill Collins, Carl Reinhardt, Dixon Shrum, Charlie Beares, Ernie Nickels, John Dennis
   Second row: Erik Wagner, Duke Orr, John Shrader, Dick Greiner, Court Dwyer, Fred Colan, Tom Kaplan, Sandy Rea, David Hawkanson, Alan Davidson, Allan Dodds Frank, John Gurson
   Third row: Tom Dorsey, Chuck Half, George Cheever, Bill Cooper, Ray Bernabei, Bruce Wiegand, Al Banes, David Wilsock
6. Class of 1970 – Steve McKnight, David Mancosh, Carl Succop, Shawn Smith, Don Shaw, David Rosenblum, George Magovern, Mike Casey, Jim Ross

7. Class of 1975 – Sandy Sherrard, John Thornburgh, Clancy Nixon and Mark Landay

   Third Row: John Bass, Paul Maloney, Bruce Masterson, Ralph Demmler, Fritz Schwentker, Lou Plung, Ron Williams, Rob Deaner
   Fourth Row: Andy Hardie, Doug Frauenholz, Mark Heppenstall

9. Class of 1985 – First Row: Mark Rust, Stan Parker, Carolyn (Havens) Niemann Paul Seltman, Glenn Berkey, Pam Hoopes, David French, Amy (Bair) Johnson, Randy Harper, Rick Davis
   Second Row: Michael Thompson, Mike Rampa, Rob Woodings, Bob Ecker

10. Class of 1990 – First Row: Tiffany (Lerch) Lewis, Megan Millman, Diem Nguyen, Laura Appleman, J. Mi (Lee) Haisman, Raimee Reiter, Andrea (Kine) Glickman, Beth Hafer, Lauri (Bair) Lee
   Second Row: Mike Stiefel, Alex Hershey, Harsha Krisnappa, Chris Giorgianni, Laura Boettger, Linda (Chung) Quarles, Manoj Jegasothy, Janet Howson, Andy Rummel, Rohit Agrowal, Eugene Katzin, Kate Sphar, Claudia Mendelson, Craig Shensa, Brook Swinston, Alex Moser, Caroline (Kansky) King, Sarah (Perkins) Stallings, Dan Brooks

11. Class of 1995 – First row: Jessica (Montgomery) Green, Alice Chong, Marjorie (Fingeret) Terry, Samantha (Caplan) Strauss, Amy Shelby, Hindi Ha Mohammed, Tiffany (Hofmann) Wilson
   Second row: Ben Hartner, Jack O’Malley, Roland Criswell
   Third row: Eric Levicoff, Coy Ross, Aaron Adler, Steve Leone, Joe Smoller
   Fourth row: Freddy Caminos, Jay Robinson
   Missing from photo: Josh Swedarsky

   Second row: Dan Gilman, Christina Stamoolis, Ashwin Ramakrishna, Tim Miller, Ashley Bower, James Antonione, Henry Martone, Zachary Weidner

13. Class of 2005 – First row: Katherine Roll, Jessica (Mirowitz) Fine, Meredith (Mullen) Barnyak, Tiffany Shento, Rachel Samakov, Kathryn Egan
   Second row: Lauren Catalano, Ashley Langford, Leslie Vincent, Kelsey Sutcliffe, Julia Liang, Jessica Cohen, Sarah Feldman, Grant Harbovsky
   Third row: Stewart Bennett, Nicholas Macpherson, R.T. Tourek, Jim Ambrose, Dave Scott, John Nagel, Ben Schmerin, Packy Lemon

14. Class of 2010 – First row: Robbie Denove, Benjamin Ross, Molly Marous, Karen Dawson, Jesse Scalo, Asher Saperstein, Jennifer Cozen, Cassie Guerin, Larisa Bodnarchuk, Meg Donnelly, Kasia Bobak, Nick Ciesielski, Mahima Chablani
This year, Shady Side Academy’s youngest students are exploring the scientific world and engaging in hands-on STEAM learning like never before, thanks to an extensive summer renovation of the Junior School science space.

Previously, the school had one 1,900-square-foot lab in the basement that was shared by K-5 science classes. That space has been expanded and renovated into a 3,000-square-foot suite of five labs, including separate early elementary (K-2) and upper elementary (3-5) labs, plus an ecosystem lab, science idea lab, and robotics and maker space. The labs feature age-appropriate furniture, moveable lab tables, in-room sinks, SMART Boards and lots of storage for student projects. Windows and glass partitions between the labs flood the space with natural light – and allow young scientists to see what’s happening in adjacent labs. Teachers and students can move seamlessly between lab spaces during a single class period.

“Like all classrooms, it’s the teachers and students that fill it with magic. That being said, our science lab was on the smaller side with a layout that left something to be desired,” said Junior School Head Ellen McConnell. “With the renovated space, we now have the ability to have two science classes happening at the same time, which allows for greater collaboration between our young scientists.”

In fact, students in different grades have been paired up to study science topics such as water (grades K and 5), engineering (grades 1 and 4) and life cycles (grades 2 and 3) in collaborative teams this year.
The new robotics lab has enabled the school to bring its successful and highly popular after-school robotics program into the curriculum. K-2 students are being introduced to robotics using Lego WeDo kits, while students in grades 3-5 are learning to program robots using Lego Mindstorms NXT kits.

The new ecosystem lab allows students to engage in ecology projects year-round and has enhanced existing units in botany and farming. Students are growing seedlings that will be transplanted to the SSA Farm, and starting next year they’ll participate in the Trout in the Classroom environmental education program, raising trout from eggs to fingerlings in a cold water aquarium.

The new science idea lab provides a comfortable space for students to explore scientific ideas and record lab observations using iPads and laptops.

The renovations cost roughly $400,000 and were made possible by a generous lead gift from an anonymous donor, and gifts from SSA trustees, parents and alumni.

The renovations are part of the comprehensive, long-term plan to upgrade science facilities at all three SSA campuses. At the Middle School, two science labs were renovated last summer and a third is tentatively slated for renovation in 2016. At the Senior School, fundraising efforts are underway to support the construction of a new Center for Science and Innovation (see page 24).

“The renovations at the Junior School ensure that our facilities support our teachers in offering the most powerful and inspiring science learning experiences from every student’s first year at Shady Side to graduation,” said Academy President Tom Cangiano.
Cultivating trust, a sense of community, and intellectual spirit.

The Return of Shady Side Academy’s Seven-Day Boarding Program

BY VAL BRKICH / PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAMES KNOX
hen his mother moved to New York City last year, Shady Side Academy sophomore Luke Keenan had the opportunity to move with her. Instead he chose to stay and take part in the school’s newly reinstated seven-day boarding program.

“I really wanted to stay,” says Keenan. “My mom and I decided the boarding program was the best option for me.”

One of the biggest advantages of the program, says Keenan, is how it prepares students for college, from the level of independence students experience to the deep relationships they form with students from around the world. “It not only helps you academically, but also socially. It really prepares you for college life.”

Boarding has always been an important part of Shady Side Academy’s mission. At the boarding program’s peak in the 1960s, about half of all students were boarders. Seven-day boarding was available up until the 1970s, and five-day boarding has been offered since then. This fall SSA saw the return of the seven-day option, which was reinstated last October by the Board of Trustees.

One of the goals of bringing back the seven-day boarding option was to geographically diversify Shady Side’s student body and to build its boarding student population. And it already has. This year’s class includes 61 boarders — the largest number since the 1992-1993 school year, when SSA hosted 73 boarders. Sixteen of these are seven-day boarders who come to Shady Side from all over: Pennsylvania, Kentucky, New York, China, Germany and Bulgaria. Five returning boarders actually transitioned from five- to seven-day boarding this year.

“The program offers a wonderful residential, pre-college experience,” says President Tom Cangiano. “Being on your own teaches you responsibility and independence, and it really helps with your intellectual, social and emotional development. I believe more and more parents are starting to appreciate what a high school residential experience can do for their children.”

Tom Hacke is one such parent who wanted to give his kids the advantage of a Shady Side Academy education. The problem was, living in Pittsburgh’s South Hills, he knew it would be difficult for them to make the long commute to and from school every day. That’s why he was so glad to learn about the boarding program.

“It gave my kids the opportunity to attend the high school they wanted to and the one we felt was the best fit for them,” says Hacke, whose daughter, Sarah, is now a junior and in her third year as a five-day boarder; his son, Matthew ’12, was also a five-day boarder, and is currently a senior at Fordham University.

Hacke says he has seen both of them mature because of the independence they were given at such a young age through the boarding program. “With more time on campus, students are exposed to all of Shady Side’s excellent resources right at their fingertips. And from first-hand experience, I can tell you that boarding helps provide a smoother transition to college.”

Cangiano says the boarding program also enables the school to cast a wider net and attract students who otherwise might not be able to attend because of their geographic location.

“Shady Side has passionate alumni who live all over the world. This program gives them the opportunity to send their kids here to have the same experience they did. It enables us to attract students from Cleveland to Copenhagen.”

Seven-day boarders enjoy weekend excursions in and around Pittsburgh, such as this trip to Fallingwater.
“Our students have a heavy academic schedule. Staying here five or seven days makes it easier than commuting home daily, and it gives them the chance to develop deeper, more meaningful relationships with the classmates and residential faculty and their families.”

Paul Elkins, who joined SSA this past summer as the new dean of student and residential life, has spent most of his career at boarding schools. He says one of the biggest advantages of Shady Side’s boarding program is the team of dorm parents that supervises the students.

“We have four apartments in each dorm where the dorm parents live and are on a rotating duty schedule,” says Elkins. “They really work as a team and provide a valuable adult presence for the students. Every night we have one parent and student prefect on duty. The two of them work together, keeping the dorm quiet during study hours and organizing fun activities for the students.”

Keenan says he enjoys the seven-day boarding program’s mandatory study hours and how they encourage you to get your homework done and succeed in school. He also likes having the dorm parents around. “They’re always eager to help with any problem you may have. Two of them, in fact, are my teachers, which is a huge advantage, because they can help me with my homework or studying for a test. It really improves my success in their class and helps me build lasting relationships with them.”

One of the advantages of being located in a metropolitan area like Pittsburgh is that it offers so many cultural and recreational opportunities for the seven-day boarders. Students have gotten to experience things like the downtown Just Ducky Tour, kayaking in North Park, trips to Kennywood, sporting events and more. They also take regular Saturday trips to The Waterworks for shopping and dining.

“It is like a big family here. All of the students help each other and have fun together.”
“There are also many great cultural institutions in this city,” adds Elkins, “so we hope to start making more trips to the downtown museums, art galleries and theaters too.” Boarding students also take part in many regular on-campus activities like movie nights, game-show nights, campfires, cookie baking and more.

Elkins points out that alumni will benefit from the seven-day boarding program as well. “Shady Side has passionate alumni who live all over the world,” he says. “This program gives them the opportunity to send their kids here to have the same experience they did. It enables us to attract students from Cleveland to Copenhagen, which really brings cultural and geographical diversity to the student body.”

This past summer, in order to enhance the campus living experience for all boarding students and to prepare for the return of seven-day boarders, improvements were made at both residence halls. At Morewood House, the girls’ dormitory, renovations included the expansion of and upgrades to bathrooms; new carpet, paint, and lighting in all student rooms; and the addition of central air conditioning in the common areas. At Croft House, the boys’ dormitory, improvements included new paint and carpet in the common rooms, and new appliances in the kitchen. In both residence halls, new laundry rooms were added as well as a new security system with cameras and key-fob entry.

Cangiano, who served as a house master himself for eight years at a boarding school in New Jersey before coming to Shady Side, says there’s actually a good deal of international demand for U.S. boarding programs. “In China there’s a huge demand for the American boarding school experience. We work with Beijing No. 4, a prestigious high school in Beijing’s Xicheng District, which helps find good matches for Shady Side. Their students are incredibly well prepared, both in the English language and culturally, which makes for a smooth transition here. We’d love to be able to enroll students from different regions of the world. They add so much to the cultural and intellectual diversity of our school.”

One of these students is Hongji (Johnny) Lu, a seven-day boarder from Shanghai.

“In my hometown, Shady Side Academy is well known as a good school,” says Lu. “It is like a big family here. All of the students help each other and have fun together.”

Lu says he’s gotten to know a lot of people and teachers through the program. The food, he adds, is pretty good too. “Everyone is kind, and they love to help you,” he says. “I would like to let more and more people know about the program, because they will love it here.”
Across the “STEM” fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, innovation is driving economies worldwide – with no better example than our own city of Pittsburgh.

Likewise, Shady Side Academy is witnessing an unprecedented level of energy and enthusiasm around science, technology and innovation. Students are blazing new trails, from robotics at the Junior School, to Science Olympiad championships at the Middle School, to independent research projects at the Senior School. Faculty members with advanced degrees and real-world experience are connecting the classroom to the broader world of science. Programmatic offerings have never been broader, from the SSA Farm to a mobile app development course.
Science and technology are fast becoming distinctive strengths at Shady Side. However, the Senior School’s current science facilities limit how fully SSA can realize its potential. Classrooms are separated from labs, making it difficult for teachers to move smoothly from concept to demonstration. Space for large-scale, long-term, student-led research projects is lacking. Programs like Science Olympiad and robotics lack sufficient dedicated space. Students are limited in the number of science classes they can take due to space scheduling constraints.

To answer these challenges, Shady Side Academy is in the leadership phase of fundraising to build a transformative new facility on the Senior School campus – the Center for Science and Innovation. Designed by Frederick Fisher and Partners Architects, this innovative building will give SSA teachers and students the space, flexibility, technology and resources to unlock the full potential of science at Shady Side.

The 22,000-square foot building will house the Senior School Science Department, including flexible classroom/lab spaces for physics, biology and chemistry, and larger, more responsive spaces for research, collaboration and independent study. For example, a special projects room will be adjacent to the faculty office suite, separated by a glass wall, giving students supervised access to research space throughout the school day.

“We strive to put our students in the position of research scientists – conducting their own investigations, analyzing
In addition, the construction of the new building will allow the spaces currently occupied by science in Rowe and Memorial Halls to be renovated into a new computer science and robotics center, giving those programs a much-needed, dedicated home.

Fundraising efforts for the Center for Science and Innovation are currently underway, and several lead gifts have already been secured, including a $1 million gift from the Bruce and Barbara Wiegand Family Foundation (see page 28) and a $1 million anonymous gift from an alumnus of the Class of 1956. The construction timeline is dependent on fundraising; however the goal is to start construction in spring 2017 and complete the building in time for the 2018-2019 school year.

“We have such passionate science teachers and enthusiastic students at Shady Side, and it’s wonderful to see that they will have a facility to match,” said SSA senior Riya Gohel. “I am excited to see how the new building will inspire students to new levels of achievement and the exciting new opportunities it will afford them.”

For information about supporting the Center for Science and Innovation, contact Director of Development Rick Munroe ’84 at rmunroe@shadysideacademy.org or 412-968-3044.
Out of gratitude to Shady Side Academy and in recognition of the significance of this project to the Academy’s future, the Bruce and Barbara Wiegand Family Foundation has pledged $1 million as a lead gift to the Center for Science and Innovation, with naming rights to the biology wing.

“Shady Side Academy has been an important institution to our family and the Pittsburgh community,” Bruce said. “We believe our lead gift to the new science center will have a transformative impact today, and in the future, on an outstanding Pittsburgh institution that has provided an excellent education for three generations of our family and, hopefully, may do so for members of the fourth generation.”

Bruce, the retired chief executive officer of The Phillips Companies, noted that he hopes his family’s gift will inspire other people to contribute to this exciting new center with flexible classrooms and state-of-the-art labs.

“The new science center will provide expanded space for innovation and experimentation for both students and faculty,” said Bruce’s wife, Barbara, former president of the SSA Parents’ Association. “An excellent science program is critical to an excellent education. Shady Side has needed this additional space for many years.” Education has been a personal and professional priority for Barbara, who worked as a teacher, diagnostician and administrator, and served on the boards of several schools. The Wiegand Family believes the new center will elevate science education to the level of the school’s longstanding stellar reputation in the humanities and social sciences.

The gift follows another family tradition – a charitable legacy.
established by Frank L. Wiegand, Jr. ’31, Bruce’s father, who endowed the Wiegand Squash Courts and established a Wiegand Scholarship. Bruce commented, “I’m sure my father would be honored to have his legacy continued in such a watershed initiative for the Academy.”

Bruce, one of six brothers who attended SSA, was a boarder during high school in the ’60s. In retrospect, he was grateful to his teachers, “who instilled discipline in our distractible, adolescent brains. The combination of a demanding academic and athletic program was an excellent springboard for coping with life’s challenges” – including the rigors of Harvard University, where he graduated cum laude and played on the Eastern Intercollegiate championship tennis team and national championship squash team.

Bruce, who received a law degree at the University of Pittsburgh, became a partner at Kirkpatrick & Lockhart LLP (now KL Gates LLP). After a 28-year legal career, he became chief executive officer, president and general counsel of The Phillips Companies, which were engaged in exploration and production (E&P) and retail distribution of natural gas in Western Pennsylvania. Bruce led the transformation of the Phillips Companies’ E&P business from a conventional developmental drilling company to a dynamic and successful player in the Marcellus Shale opportunity. He subsequently quarterbacked the sale of the E&P business to Exxon Mobil Corp. and the sale of the utility business to a private equity firm.

Christy became the first female in the Wiegand family to attend Shady Side. “It was a magical combination of great academics, high school athletics and a wonderful music program,” she said.

Christy enjoyed William Diehl’s advanced biology class. “Even then, they could have benefited from more lab space and better resources. I am thrilled that Shady Side will have a state-of-the-art science center.”

Christy graduated from Princeton University, where she was a member of the NCAA champion crew team, and received her law degree from Cornell University.

Laura said she developed her love of science at Shady Side taking courses such as Diehl’s advanced biology class. “Teachers wanted to know us more than the hour we spent in the classroom. They taught us how to think critically. It wasn’t just rote memorization.”

Laura said Shady Side was excellent preparation for Harvard, where she graduated magna cum laude and was a member of the swim team, and for the University of Pittsburgh Medical School.

Bo said he is thrilled with the sustainable aspects of the current building design and is grateful that Shady Side students and teachers will have such an incredible facility to pursue their studies and explore new innovations and technologies. “The teachers at Shady Side provide such an incredible learning experience – I’m grateful our family can contribute.”

Bo graduated from Harvard, where he was a member of the tennis team.

“WE BELIEVE OUR LEAD GIFT TO THE NEW SCIENCE CENTER WILL HAVE A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT TODAY, AND IN THE FUTURE.”

Miroya Monsour, M.D.’77
Miroya Monsour ’77 is a practicing ophthalmologist in a private practice in the Pittsburgh area. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Boston College, her master’s degree from Georgetown University, and completed her medical degree and residency in ophthalmology at Georgetown University Medical School. She and her husband, Merrill Stabile, have two sons, John ’18 and Alexander ’18.

Lauren O. Troutman ’85
Lauren Troutman ’85 previously served as senior media planner for Ketchum Advertising, working on a variety of local accounts including Heinz and Thrift Drug. She was a founding member of the board of The Woodlands Foundation and served on the Women’s Auxiliary, where she helped to chair the Butterfly Ball. She received her bachelor’s degree from Boston College. She and her husband, Jeffrey, have three children, Jack ’15, Tim ’18 and Charlie ’21.
SERVICE LEARNING benefits numerous constituents, from schools to the local community to society as a whole. But, overall, it is students who receive the most gain. Through service learning, students have an opportunity to achieve greater cultural awareness, enhance personal development, problem-solve outside of the classroom, increase leadership skills and so much more. Simply put, service learning is a unique opportunity to extend the Shady Side Guiding Principles beyond the gates.

Fred Parkin ’59 was well aware of the benefits of service learning when he created the Parkin Fellowships for Global Service Endowment Fund in 2006. Parkin Fellowships award travel grant money each summer to assist students in completing service or environmental projects around the globe. These experiences make an impact not only through the service or environmental work that students engage in, but also through the stories students share upon their return that enrich the Shady Side community while inspiring others to make a difference.

The following excerpts from SSA’s Global Learning Blog provide a glimpse into what the 2015 Parkin Fellows experienced during their trips, in their own words. Read all of the posts at www.shadysideacademy.org/globallearningblog.

MARIO LAGNESE ’16 volunteered for two weeks at an orphanage and school for the blind in Tanzania.

DAY 1 TANZANIA, AFRICA

This is the first third world country that I have ever been to, so for me, it was pretty weird and uncommon to see people living in shacks and unfinished houses dotted along the road. Although this was pretty demoralizing to see how these people lived, I have to say that I have never received so many waves and friendly gestures while in a single car ride in my entire life. Left and right, children, adults and even older citizens waved to me with the biggest smiles on their faces. I can’t tell you how nice it was to have such a warm welcome into this beautiful country. I start my volunteering at the Mwereni School tomorrow and a mid-way climb up Mount Kilimanjaro, the tallest mountain on the continent of Africa.
Tonight, I, along with two other volunteers, worked at the hospital overnight in the emergency department with a couple of doctors. It was an enlightening experience – one that definitely warranted staying up all night! When there were not many patients, we spent time talking with the doctors. Of the patients that came in, many presumably had infections and were given appropriate medications. There was a young mom who delivered a baby girl, a man who had been bitten by a dog in the street, and a case of severe dehydration. There was a boy who appeared to have a broken foot, although the hospital did not have the ability to take X-rays to know for sure… This night in the hospital was the most valuable experience I have had. I spent time with doctors, learned about the culture, and was able to help patients and their families. I truly began to appreciate the stark differences between the medical care available in Bolivia and the medical care that we seem to take for granted in the United States.

EMILY WINTERHALTER ’17
volunteered for two weeks at hospitals in Bolivia, shadowing and helping doctors treat patients. She also traveled to orphanages to assist with dental outreach and provided medical care to the elderly in rural areas.

SOLOMON KLEIN ANIMAL HOSPITAL, BOLIVIA

Another new activity this morning. Road repair entails breaking down piles of dirt with hoes, shoveling it into a rusted trailer, and laying the dirt on the uneven rock and gravel roads so provide a flatter, more comfortable road surface. The work was quite hard, and the amount of road we covered was quite small. In Kenya, it seems, necessity outweighs practicality. This afternoon we pooled money to buy some food and school supplies for a nearby orphanage. I honestly felt pretty awful when we were there. My contribution felt almost insignificant considering there are 30 parentless children under supervision of a single woman who have almost nothing to them but the clothes on their back, living in a structure that would be condemned in the U.S. By what absurd roll of the dice did we volunteers end up being the distributors of the supplies, and they the receivers? If nothing else, then I would encourage everyone to visit another country just to be awoken to the unimaginable circumstances that other human beings live in on Earth. That’s not to say America is perfect — it’s far from it, in fact. However, I think we all could stand to gain a little more empathy, and I certainly felt that way today.
ANNIKA DHAWAN ’17
traveled to Dharamsala, India, where she worked at childcare centers for families who could not afford preschool, ran a summer camp and assisted villagers.

DHARAMSALA, INDIA

So far, I have definitely been surprised as to how hard it is managing and teaching young kids. I am in charge of 10 bright and energetic kindergartners, and boy are they a handful. Some are more advanced than others and can easily recite the alphabet and numbers 1-100. But a common problem my peers and I have noticed is the gap between knowledge and comprehension when it comes to learning English. The kids are taught by rote memorization, so they can recite things such as the alphabet, but don’t really understand the meaning behind what they’ve learned. So, I’m making it one of my personal teaching goals to get them to really comprehend what they are learning, such as teaching them what the letters of the alphabet do and what sounds each letter makes. I also see that my kindergartners are behind in colors, shapes, etc., so I plan to work on that in these next two weeks. The language barrier is definitely tough, especially with the younger children, as their English is extremely limited. For myself it isn’t too much of a problem, as I am familiar with Hindi, but teaching English still isn’t an easy task.

I’m really enjoying myself teaching at the Vidya Mandir School and spending time with all of the kids, whose favorite things to do are coloring and running outside to play duck-duck-goose. The kids, especially the older ones, absolutely love when we come to teach and play, and never fail to crowd us in high fives and hugs and a loud “bye” before our troop of eight leaves for the day and climbs back up the mountain to our home base.

SAMEER ANNAMRAJU ’17
spent two weeks in Browning, Mont., at the Blackfeet Native American Reservation, where he built homes and worked with tribal leaders to help preserve the land.

BLACKFEET NATIVE AMERICAN RESERVATION, MONTANA

Browning is a mix of people; most were grateful for our service and went to lengths to thank us for our work, while others saw our service as unneeded and possibly condescending (an excusable inevitability given the history of white Americans, settlers, “trying to help”). We met some amazing people, and all shared the same traits: wickedly funny and clever, resilient and adept at dealing with adversity, and loyal tribal members. The Blackfeet hold a special place in Native American history, as it was a Blackfeet member (even more powerfully, a woman from the patriarchal Blackfeet tribe) who filed
Having just landed back in the U.S. after two weeks in Central America, I was surprised to find myself surrounded by spoken English again. It’s amazing being able to overhear strangers’ conversations around me after hearing very little English for the past two weeks. I hadn’t noticed it at the time, but the language immersion greatly added to the experience of my trip and to the clarity I gained from it… I left Guatemala feeling rather unsettled. Seeing these stories brought to life was incredible but made me rather indignant about the world at large; I saw another side to the story presented on immigration in the United States. Thanks to my Parkin experience, I gained valuable insight into life in another small corner of the world. I intend to sponsor the continued education of a few students the school identifies as those on the cusp of dropping out to either find work or leave the country. This trip has changed me.

Since I did not go with a group, every minor logistical detail had to be covered: from finding a petrol station, to a clean place to eat, and to arranging my transportation to the schools. This project really has meant a lot to me, as I got to go back to a different country and teach students who do not have the same access to healthcare as I do. This, by far, has been the biggest reason for me coming here: to really make a difference in these students’ lives and to make a bond that will last a lifetime.
**GIRLS TENNIS**

By Maria Jovin '16

Led by coaches Jeff Miller and Rachel McCool, the girls tennis team had an undefeated regular season record of 11-0. The girls experienced their first loss of the season in the WPIAL finals against North Allegheny, 2-3. SSA went on to the PIAA tournament in Hershey, where they beat Philadelphia teams West Chester Henderson and Harriton by scores of 3-2 and 5-0, respectively. The team finished second in the state after falling to North Allegheny in the finals. Senior Ananya Dua won both the WPIAL and PIAA Singles Championships for the second year in a row. It was an exciting season, and the team is looking forward to another successful year in 2016.

**GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY**

By Jael Onyango '16

The girls cross country team had a great season, partly due to the senior leadership returning runners Jael Onyango, Emily Natoli, Anna Trefelner and Riya Gohel. Complementing the senior leadership were a strong group of returning girls plus some new runners. The team finished 5-2 in the section, 10th at the Central Catholic Invitational, second at the Altoona Invitational and 10th at the WPIAL Championships. Although no girls qualified for states this year, the future is bright for the team as 14 of 18 runners will return in 2016.

**FIELD HOCKEY**

By Lauren Kossman '16

This year, the SSA field hockey team maintained its reputation as an enthusiastic and hard-working team of great coaches and talented players with a common passion for the sport. Led by senior captains Corby Wolfe, Lauren Kossman, Maggie Aiken, Rose Rattner and Sarah Anania, SSA finished the season with an overall record of 13-4. Under new head coach Sarah MacLeod, the girls quickly formed a strong bond, demonstrating hard work on and off the field while having fun. The team went into the playoffs in first place, and despite losing the WPIAL championship to rival Ellis, it was definitely a season to remember.

**BOY CROSS COUNTRY**

The boys cross country team earned an overall season record of 3-4 and finished seventh at the WPIAL Class A Championships at Coopers Lake. Junior Gannon Leech placed seventh out of 196 runners (17:26) at WPIALs, earning a medal and qualifying for the PIAA Championships in Hershey. At the PIAA meet, Leech finished 11th out of 226 runners (16:49) to earn a PIAA medal.
FOOTBALL

By Jordan Conn ’16

The varsity football squad endured a difficult season. Faced with an abundance of injuries to pivotal players, the squad failed to make the WPIAL playoffs for the first time since 2007. The overall team record was 3-6, highlighted by an exciting win over Burrell in overtime. However, wins and losses did not define this team. Led by senior captains Eric Harris, Jordan Conn, Mike Ware and Doc Szlachetka, the players never surrendered. They played unselfishly, fiercely and with amazing effort, knowing that they were representing SSA football’s long and storied tradition. One of the benefits of the tough season was the opportunity for a number of underclassmen to experience greatly increased playing time. Hopefully the lessons learned on the field will carry over to future seasons, as the team looks forward to a strong comeback next season.

2015 FALL SPORTS RECORDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Varsity Teams</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>PCT.</th>
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<tr>
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Totals: 78 35 1 0.689

GIRLS SOCCER

By Olivia Cotter ’16

The girls soccer team had another successful year, finishing the season with a record of 17-5. The team was coached by Mary Lynch and led by captains Sache Coury, Olivia Cotter and Sam Morlacci. The team advanced to the WPIAL semifinals, bounced back from a loss to win the consolation match and earn a berth in the PIAA playoffs. While the team was eliminated in the first round of states in a hard-fought match, the girls were pleased with the season overall. The team is looking forward to reclaiming the WPIAL title next season.

GIRLS GOLF

By Katie Bray McGhee ’16

With a smaller team than anticipated, every player on the girls golf team played a critical role in its success. The team added three freshmen to the roster, and returning players stepped into leadership positions. The sole junior, Casey Morrow, played the No. 1 position and served as team captain, leading the team with low scores. The only sophomore, Alexandra Muracca, played No. 2 and consistently earned great scores. Both Morrow and Muracca qualified for the WPIAL Individual Championship, placing 13th and 23rd, respectively. The team’s two senior co-captains, Qi Xiong and Katie Bray McGhee, were in the starting five and encouraged the team throughout the season. SSA’s only losses were to North Allegheny and Fox Chapel, ending the regular season with a record of 5–3 and finishing fifth at the WPIAL Team Championship.
BOYS SOCCER
By Matt Rytel ’16
The boys soccer team accomplished another successful season this year. The team was led by first-year head coach Ed Ellsworth, who has years of experience as an Arsenal F.C. coach and has led his club teams to multiple state championships. Due to changes in coaching styles, it took a while for the team to learn the new possession-based plays, but the leadership of captains Matt Rytel and Gray Garrard made the process easier. The team went on to finish second place in the section. After receiving a surprisingly low playoff seeding, the team lost a first-round game to the eventual WPIAL champion, South Fayette, finishing with an overall record of 8-5-1. The team looks forward to building an even stronger soccer program next season.

BOYS GOLF
By Jack Katarincic ’16
The boys golf team finished with a 7-3 overall record, led by captains Jack Katarincic, CJ Keim and Will McMahon. The team started the season 0-2, but battled back with big wins against Hampton, Mars and Knoch. In the annual Interscholastic Prep School League tournament, five seniors brought home the championship after taking second place the past two years. Individually Stephen McInerney advanced to the WPIAL Individual Championship, where he placed 31st. Under the leadership of coaches Mark Hessler and Kyle Smith, the team learned both on and off the course. With a strong group of returning players, the 2016 squad expects to continue on the road to a championship.

CHEERLEADING
By Maura Wells ’16
Led by senior captains Mandi Williams and Maura Wells, the varsity cheerleading team had a long list of accomplishments this season. During preseason, the team attended a stunting clinic at an all-star cheerleading gym. In September, the cheerleaders traveled to the Junior School for a Homecoming pep rally, then hosted a cheerleading camp for Junior School students, who cheered alongside their varsity mentors at the Homecoming football game. Additionally, the team performed at the Senior School Homecoming assembly. Overall, the team had an exciting season and looks forward to pumping up the crowd next year.
The 2015-2016 Hillman Performing Arts Series is shaping up to be the flashiest season yet. In October, King Michael: A Glorious Tribute to the King of Pop kicked off the series with a “wow.” Award-winning singers, dancers and urban acrobats performed Michael Jackson’s greatest hits, including Thriller, Billie Jean and more. Fans of all ages were awed by the moonwalk as well as the stunning choreography.

In November, the Hillman hosted the U.S. premiere of Cas Public’s Symphonie Dramatique, an homage to Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet. Set to the classical music of Prokofiev, Tchaïkovski, Gounod and others, this stunning ballet transcended language to portray the classic tale of love and fealty. Following the production, the company traveled to the Lincoln Center in New York City for a residency.

The series will resume in February when the Richard E. Rauh Theater stage becomes a synthetic ice rink for Winter Ice Solstice. The winter-themed skating bonanza will feature ice dancers performing amazing jumps, fast spins and stunning tricks.

In March, be prepared to laugh as the Hillman debuts The Greatest Pirate Story Never Told, a completely spontaneous musical based on audience suggestions. Pirates must sing, dance and act their way back from a shipwreck, charming audience members of all ages as they make their way to dry land.

The Jive Aces, winner of BBC’s Britain’s Got Talent, will visit the Hillman in April as the final stop on their U.S. tour. Adorned in zoot suits, these high-energy performers bring back swing dancing, original music and classic big band hits and will have audiences dancing in their seats.

As a special event, public radio personality Garrison Keillor will visit Shady Side Academy in May. The Hillman Center is happy to partner with WQED to host the creator of the famed radio show A Prairie Home Companion. Keillor also will attend a special VIP reception before the event and sign books after the show.

For more information, visit www.thehillman.org.
On Sept. 11, 2001, David Puth ’74 was in London for a JPMorgan Chase global management meeting when someone whispered in his ear about a plane crash across the Atlantic. Minutes later, he and fellow bankers stared aghast at TV images of two towers of the World Trade Center burning. Puth rushed to the bank’s trading floor, where he tried unsuccessfully to call his family back home in New York City. His shock deepened as he stared at the surreal images of two downed towers and a third one burning, office workers jumping out of the windows.

As soon as he could get a flight out, he was on a plane to New York. In late September, Puth sat in a conference room across from the towers, peering out the window at the still-smoldering rubble, firefighters racing from one blaze to the next.

As a senior manager at JPMorgan Chase, Puth could have just written a generous check. But as a board member of the Robin Hood Foundation, a poverty-fighting nonprofit located across the street from the wreckage of the World Trade Center, he did much more. Every Friday afternoon for the next 18 months, he helped track down and aid victims of the terrorist attack, often by funding other groups. “David jumped into action. He helped lead an effort to help people who lost a family member, their job, or just lost their way after September 11,” said David Saltzman, executive director of the foundation.
Fast forward seven years to the financial crisis of 2008. Headlines blared staggering news of banks, insurance companies and mortgage companies failing. Taxpayer rage grew as the government bailed out big banks. The United States plunged into a recession that rippled overseas.

At that tumultuous time in the banking industry, Puth was in Boston as head of global markets for State Street.

“Even though we were a strong institution, we were traveling in uncharted waters. There was no simple playbook on how to manage risk under those circumstances. It tested my resolve on how to do business and how to do business the right way. I felt like I had trained my whole life for that time.”

Just as he sprang into action after the tragedy of 9-11, he didn’t sit back after the subprime mortgage crisis that shook people’s faith in Wall Street banks. Through his leadership role at several organizations, he has worked to rebuild trust in the banking industry.

He is now the chief executive officer of CLS Group, which plays a fundamental role in foreign exchange markets. Owned by the world’s leading banks, it operates the largest multicurrency cash settlement system to mitigate settlement risk for the foreign exchange markets and its customers.

“Today our country’s major financial institutions are on a very strong footing. The company that I work for is part of what makes the financial system stronger,” he said. “Our job is to reduce risks to a manageable level. It is now almost cliché to say it’s not whether or not there will be another financial crisis. There will be. But the financial system will be better prepared to deal with that crisis when it inevitably materializes.”

On any given week, Puth may fly off to Singapore or Tokyo meeting with banking clients and government officials about the foreign exchange market. The next week, in another time zone, he may be working in his office in New York. Or he may be securing funding for a job training program in an impoverished neighborhood in New York, or attending a board meeting of the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston.

Puth credits his diverse interests to his education at Shady Side Academy, where he began attending in sixth grade. “What I remember most is how much the school encouraged and enabled one to look beyond what was a fairly rigorous academic environment to become a well-rounded individual,” he said. “I participated in sports, theater and studied art. Shady Side was a unique institution then and is stronger today. I could not be more impressed with what I see being accomplished by Tom Cangiano and with the overall success of the school.”

Gregarious and outgoing, he made friends with students in various social circles. “He was friends with the artists. He was friends with the athletes. He was friends with the nerds,” said Andy Mathieson ’74, classmate and longtime friend. “He was one of the people who was the glue of the class.”

After graduating in 1974, the first year that women graduated, Puth attended Tufts University, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science. He also took many classes in economics, and his interest in global affairs piqued his interest in financial markets. “I was fascinated by the role of politics in the economy.”
“Honestly there aren’t that many executives who would have been willing to go out to one of the poorest neighborhoods on a regular basis to help people he never met. He went every week.”

He got a job at a bank in Boston and one day walked onto the bank’s small trading floor. He was instantly hooked by the excitement of trading, the decisions behind calculated risks. Instantly he knew this is what he wanted to do for a living. He also met his future wife, Leslie, then one of about 10 traders there.

Then he moved to New York, where he spent the bulk of his career, including 19 years at JPMorgan Chase. He served in a variety of senior global leadership roles at the financial services firm, including oversight of the bank’s foreign exchange, interest rate derivatives, commodities and emerging markets businesses. He also served as a member of the bank’s executive committee.

After leaving JPMorgan, he joined State Street Bank, where he was head of global markets, responsible for sales, trading and investment research. In August 2012, he joined CLS as CEO, director of the board of the CLS Group Holdings.

He has loved the challenges and ever-changing landscape of the financial markets, with its relentless pace, operating 24 hours a day, fluctuating with the headlines and changing economies. The financial crisis in Greece, the slowdown of the Chinese economy – it all affects what he does.

“The foreign exchange market is the largest and most active market in the world, with five trillion dollars each day of transactions.”

“Markets are the highways that allow the free flow of capital around the world,” he said. “We help maintain the highways that keep the business moving. We put trillions of dollars a day through our system.”

Puth has excelled in many diverse roles in the financial industry.

“Some people do well for a certain amount of time, and the world changes and they fail to adapt. But David is adaptable,” said Dino Kos, the head of global regulatory affairs at CLS and former executive vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. “I can’t think of anyone else who has excelled in so many different roles.”

“He has a great combination of leadership skills, connecting to people and a great feel for the market, where policy is going,” Kos said.

Puth also took leadership roles in national financial institutions. He was a member of the foreign exchange committee, sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, which he chaired from 1999 to 2002.

This year, he was named chair of the market participants group, which has been established by the world’s leading central banks to create a single global code of conduct for foreign exchange markets. As part of that role, Puth gives speeches to help restore public faith in markets. “He is a great statesman of the foreign exchange market,” Kos said. “He is spreading the gospel of regaining public trust.”

While Puth was building and reinventing his career, he was also devoting more time to volunteer work and community service. “I was raised in a household where we were always thankful for our general good fortune and one where we understood that we should never take that good fortune for granted.”

He met Saltzman at the Robin Hood Foundation in the ’90s and told the executive director he wanted to help. Saltzman recalled the banker wanted a tough assignment, so he gave him one.

He sent him to meet the Bedford-Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance Corp., then funded by Robin Hood. The nonprofit volunteer ambulance corps was started by two community activists who organized volunteers to respond to emergencies on foot because it took city ambulances about 30 minutes to arrive in a neighborhood so crime-ridden it was nicknamed
“the American Beirut.” The crack epidemic had hit it particularly hard.

Puth was asked to help form a board of directors to help the group grow. The men from Bedford-Stuyvesant had their reservations at first. What could an executive from one of the largest banks possibly know about their impoverished neighborhood? Geographically, Puth lived only a few miles away in Brooklyn, but his neighborhood was a very different world from Bedford-Stuyvesant.

Puth helped break down that barrier by visiting regularly and spending a few nights in the ambulance with the group, watching them respond to calls. “He helped them with the fundraising that enabled them to get ambulances and to pay for training,” Saltzman said.

“Honestly there aren’t that many executives who would have been willing to go out to one of the poorest neighborhoods on a regular basis to help people he never met,” Saltzman said. “He went every week. It was like so many acts of sheer goodness and selflessness.”

His wife, Leslie, said it is typical of the energy he devotes to projects. “If he throws himself into something, he throws himself in 110 percent. He is incredibly generous with his spirit and his time.”

In 1998, he joined the board of Robin Hood, and he made his largest time contribution after 9-11. He talked to groups that were aiding victims’ families, including the undocumented workers who had died in the blast without anyone knowing it. “We backed an organization that went to Mexico and knocked on people’s doors. We found families who had lost missing loved ones.”

The group also distributed money that had been raised at a concert, much of it going to organizations that helped victims. But Robin Hood also sent 2,900 victims’ families a $5,000 check for the holidays. The letters of gratitude that poured in still make him choke up. He said he will always be grateful that he had a chance to help.

Saltzman said that is typical of how Puth approaches his life. “He is ridiculously smart, ridiculously hard-working and ridiculously big-hearted.”
As a teenager, Marisa Muscari ’01 would play video games with her two older brothers, but it was just a casual pastime, playing FIFA and GoldenEye 007.

So she never expected to land a plum job in the video game industry. Now she is the senior manager of product management for Call of Duty at Activision, one of the largest U.S. video game publishers. Here inside the Santa Monica, Calif., headquarters, she works with a PlayStation 4 on her desk in an office where no one gets reprimanded for playing games on the job.

“It’s a fun, exciting industry,” she said. “Even though it was unexpected, this was the right position. I have never looked back.”

The 32-year-old Harvard M.B.A. landed her initial job at Activision not because of her joystick skills but because of her Chinese proficiency and business experience in Asia. She helped Activision launch a free-to-play online version of the company’s megahit game, Call of Duty, in China.

She first learned the notoriously difficult language at Shady Side Academy. Joining SSA as a freshman, she knew Mei-Wang Shao’s class was, at the time, one of the few high school Chinese classes in the nation.

Compared to Spanish, French and German, Mandarin is staggeringly difficult for an English speaker. Not only are there thousands of characters to memorize, the grammar is totally different. “There is no sense of familiarity,” Muscari said. “Each word has a specific tone, so you have to not only learn the word, but the tone to accompany it.”

Realizing what her students were up against and to prevent them from getting discouraged, Shao made it fun. To help them remember characters, she made up stories. For example, the character for “man/male” is the shape of a rice patty, so she told them to think how men worked the rice fields historically in China. She used rhymes, songs and skits to teach other characters. “We laughed a lot – usually at our mistakes. And that was terrific to be able to so freely fumble around and not have to worry about being criticized.”
The class was small and tight-knit, and the bond strengthened her sophomore year, when Shao took four students on a two-week tour of China. Muscari’s senses went into overdrive as she experienced the excitement and chaos on the streets. “Every single day in China is its own mini-adventure,” she recalled.

In Shanghai, she loved the vibrancy of the city, the crush of people, the frantic rush of bicycles, scooters and cars. The juxtaposition of old and new fascinated her – alleys and street markets contrasting with high-rises going up in a bustling city of about 20 million people. In the capital of Beijing, they toured the Great Wall, got lost in the Forbidden City and feasted in restaurants.

That whirlwind trip of China whetted her appetite for more. Muscari proposed a senior year abroad studying in China, which was difficult to fit into the Shady Side calendar year. “Ms. Shao and the administration were very helpful in getting me there,” she said.

Upon landing in Beijing, she was bewildered by how quickly everyone spoke. It was one thing to understand her teacher enunciating slowly in class, and quite another to follow the rat-a-tat of everyday conversation on the street. Even worse, she became self-conscious speaking, worried about making a mistake.

Her host mother told her: **Stop trying to be so precise. Just say what you want to say.**

That advice freed her to be less inhibited and to express herself. “That is what I love about Chinese culture. You don’t need to be perfect.”

Besides the now-retired Shao, Muscari was inspired by other SSA teachers, including William Sayles in biology and Susan Rhodes in history.

She moved across the country to attend Pomona College in Claremont, Calif., where she dabbled in economics before majoring in biology, minoring in Chinese. “I stuck with it. I am glad I did,” she said.

After graduation, she had no idea what she wanted to do. But in 2005, she accepted a job with L’Oréal, the cosmetics giant. She had thought she was going to work in New
Jersey, but at the last minute, they told her about a new opening at a research and development lab in Shanghai.

Would she be interested?

“I’m in,” she said without hesitation.

Two weeks before her overseas adventure, however, she had second thoughts. “I freaked out,” she said. “I was 22 and did not know a soul in Shanghai.”

Those fears disappeared soon after she landed and hung out with other expatriates from around the world. “I had a blast. I had an amazing group of like-minded friends. They were very adventurous and curious.” She also made lasting friendships with her Chinese colleagues, who welcomed her into their homes for dinner.

Creating beauty products for Chinese women gave her a window into the culture. Unlike American women, Chinese women didn’t grow up watching their mothers put on lipstick and foundation, and weren’t used to the dizzying array of cosmetics found in a U.S. drugstore aisle. So the research and development team had to create makeup that was easy-to-use and part of a simple beauty regimen.

L’Oréal developed a lipstick for Chinese women. But unlike the long-lasting lipsticks sold to American women, the Chinese lipstick formulation was easy to swipe off with a tissue. “The Chinese like to remove lipstick before they eat. It had to be very soft,” she said.

She stayed there about three years. Though her Chinese improved dramatically, Muscari has never called herself fluent. “I am comfortable with the day-to-day Chinese.”

Eager to learn more about marketing and strategy, she returned to the United States to apply to M.B.A. programs, including Harvard Business School. “Why not shoot for the stars?” said Muscari, who was accepted. “It was a generalist program and I loved it. There was so much for me to learn in the business world – marketing, supply chain, finance.”

Her classmate and friend, Aland Failde, said she was both highly analytical but also spontaneous and creative. “It is rare to find people who are good at both. She uses both sides of her brain.”

“She would be the person who would organize karaoke night or find the best Korean restaurant,” Failde said. “She was definitely one of those social architect people who made it a lot better for all of us.”

After graduation in 2010, she took another job in Asia – this time, as an internal strategy consultant for Samsung in Seoul. “It was a much more difficult transition than Shanghai. I didn’t know the language.”

Even so, she became the social organizer for a group of expatriates there, helping to make their transition easier. “She

“She understands cultural nuances, the reasons why things are a certain way. In the Western world, people like to problem solve. In some Asian markets, problem solving in a game would not give them enjoyment. You can be academically smart and not get things like that. But Marisa did.”
is an effervescent person,” said Ayelet Konrad, also a consultant at Samsung then and now an account executive at LinkedIn. “She made all of us ex-pats feel at home. She would use every opportunity to have people in her apartment – board game night, brunch, her famous Mad Men fiesta.”

As a consultant, Muscari got valuable work experience at Samsung, South Korea’s largest conglomerate. “It’s a monster of a company, with electronic products, a health care arm, retail, amusement parks.”

After two years in Seoul, she returned to the states. Failde, her Harvard classmate who was then working at Activision, told her about a job at the video game company. “Are you interested?”

“Yes, of course,” she answered. But she was a little worried because it had been a while since she had played video games. She was hired to help launch Call of Duty Online in China. “It was a great way for me to join the company,” she said. “The Chinese love their video games, but it was a totally different market.” Unlike Americans who grew up playing on consoles, the Chinese played on PCs because consoles had been banned until a year ago.

In January 2015, the company launched Call of Duty Online, and it was an instant success. The action game simulates combat and allows players to compete against friends online.

The free-to-play online game – a new business model for Activision – relied on players making many small “microtransactions,” such as buying a pair of sunglasses or camouflage for their avatar. “There are all these great funky designs to use,” she said. “In China, they love that stuff. They go crazy.” One small group of players buys hundreds of dollars’ worth of merchandise, while another segment buys a modest amount of virtual merchandise. Another group buys nothing but plays constantly, still valuable because they keep the buzz for the game going.

Failde said Muscari proved herself in the high-risk, fast-changing video game industry. “It’s hit or miss when people come from outside the gaming business,” said Failde, now the director of product marketing at Pocket Gems, a mobile gaming startup in San Francisco. “Creative industries are very volatile. You can go from the top-of-the-world to nothing. You have to be okay with the risk. It takes the right person to excel in that. Marisa is so versatile.”

He also said she excelled in China because of her astute read of cultural nuances. “For Western game publishers, those are new markets,” Failde said. “She understands cultural nuances, the reasons why things are a certain way. In the Western world, people like to problem solve. In some Asian markets, problem solving in a game would not give them enjoyment. So you would lead them to where they need to go. You can be academically smart and not get things like that. But Marisa did.”

Now Muscari is working on global marketing for Call of Duty: Black Ops III, one of the biggest U.S. entertainment brands, “Call of Duty is huge,” she said. “As a franchise, it made more money than all the Harry Potter movies combined. It’s pretty insane how much fandom we have.”

“I like to play, but I am terrible,” she said with a laugh. “It is a really hard game.”

Her two older brothers and her nephew love that she is working in the video game industry, and her job title is a good conversational point in social settings. “If I mention that I work on Call of Duty, heads will turn,” she said. “It is a bit unexpected that I am a female working on Call of Duty.”

The popularity of Call of Duty: Black Ops III was obvious in its blockbuster Nov. 7 launch. In the first three days, sales exceeded $550 million worldwide, and fans played more than 75 million hours online. Those sales figures made it the biggest entertainment launch of 2015, including theatrical box office, game, music or book, the company said.

Activision held a launch party for Black Ops III for the entire office. “We work hard, but the company is constantly trying to make sure we enjoy ourselves too and get the benefits that we are creating for consumers.”
FALL DOWNTOWN LUNCH

On Dec. 9, alumni spent their lunch break gathering and networking at the Allegheny HYP Club at the Fall Downtown Lunch in Pittsburgh. The featured speaker was SSA Director of College Counseling Marty Elkins, who delivered insights and fielded questions about today’s college admissions process. She shared her expertise on the current college landscape and how Shady Side students are navigating the process successfully.

IN-COLLEGE BRUNCH

Graduates from the classes of 2012-2015 returned to campus during winter break to visit with classmates and teachers during the In-College Brunch. The annual event took place on Dec. 23, in McCune Dining Hall and was a great way to welcome alumni back home after long weeks of college exams.

ALUMNI ATHLETIC EVENTS

What better way to work off that second serving of turkey than with some friendly alumni competition? Over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, hockey and basketball alumni met up in the Roy McKnight Hockey Center and Mellon Gym respectively to prove they still have it. Family and friends joined to cheer on their favorite alums. Plenty of sportsmanship and no injuries made for successful games this year.

Tom Cangiano, Jose Amayo ’94, Marty Elkins and Brendan McLaughlin ’86

Amber Shergill ’14, Rebkah Tesfamariam ’14, Louis Berry IV ’15, Jarred Brevard ’14, Alex Fazioli ’15, Patrick Loughran ’15 and Tyrel Hill ’14
PHILADELPHIA ALUMNI RECEPTION

On Oct. 6, an alumni reception was held at the Union League in Center City Philadelphia. President Tom Cangiano spoke about the school’s top priorities and initiatives and also fielded a variety of questions from a very engaged group of alumni.

WASHINGTON, D.C. ALUMNI RECEPTION

The D.C. Alumni Reception took place at the Metropolitan Club on Oct. 15, 2015. There was a great turnout as well as a wide range of class years represented at the event. The attendees enjoyed the time to reconnect with old friends and Shady Side. Director of Enrollment Management and Marketing Katie Mihm ’83 joined the trip to talk to D.C. alumni about SSA’s new seven-day boarding program.

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QUESTIONS?

Contact Director of Alumni Relations Jamie Scott ’98 at 412-986-3032 or jscott@shadysideacademy.org
Included in this section are news items received through Nov 1, 2015.

1943
Biddle Whigham writes: “My 90th birthday was on Nov. 9, 2015. I don’t travel much anymore.”

1950
Herb Ferguson writes: “Holy mackerel. It has been 65 years and some of us are still here. What a great class we were. Some of us were together from the first grade through graduation.”

1953
Ned Boshell writes: “I still enjoy traveling, especially with several grandchildren. We have gone to Great Britain, Spain and Morocco. My ‘polio legs’ are beginning to cause some problems, but I am blessed to still be mobile.”

1955
William Collins writes: “My wife Ann and I were delighted to see David McCullough ’51 and his wife, Rosalee, when they were in Albany, N.Y., in June 2015. He was honored with the coveted Empire State Archives History Award.”

1962
Al Stuckeman writes: “After losing my wife, Linda, in April, I returned to Pittsburgh from Tennessee. I am currently living in Sewickley at the Masonic Village. My three sons also reside in the area.”

Tom Celli writes: “I am continuing my architectural practice at Celli-Flynn Brennan on some intriguing projects, mostly for higher education institutions such as Bucknell and Nebraska Wesleyan University. Historic preservation, residences and offices are all in the mix. I am in my sixth year as a trustee of The American University in Bulgaria. We are serving as architects for The American College of Sofia, Bulgaria’s equivalent prep school to SSA. A new campus center and learning commons and restoration of Old Main are being bid. Tom Cangiano knows the school well. My son Michelangelo ’92 has a business in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, and has made a Bulgarian from Sofia president of one of his other companies, Smart Systems Technology (SST). SST has 30 employees in Pittsburgh and six employees in Bulgaria. I stay in touch with John Mullin and Kent Rockwell and see Jeff Morrow on the street now and then. Keep well.”

1976
Rick Wently writes: “Jodi and I have been living an ‘endless summer’ in Florida for the past 30 years. I still surf every day that we have waves. Our stores, Aristokids and
p.b. Boys Club have been in business 28 years and 22 years, respectively. They still remain a top Palm Beach destination. Our empty nest is full again while Savannah, 26, studies for the Florida bar exam and J prepares for the Florida real estate exam. I still see many SSA friends and alumni when they visit Palm Beach. I am looking forward to our 40th reunion next year.”

From Lynn Tracy: “It’s been quite a while since high school. Our oldest, the twins, turned 30 on Nov 6, 2015. The other three are not far behind. I am still in Burlington, Vt., working at the University of Vermont. My husband John is in national politics. We often travel to visit our children and granddaughter, which takes us to Boston, Baltimore, Charlotte and Washington, D.C. Maybe we will run into an SSA alum? I am mostly in touch with Penny Mateer, Sallie Belle, Patty Van Horn and Mike Selz but would love to widen the circle.”

1979
Jim Werbaneth writes: “It has been a busy few years for me. Since 2009 I’ve been a full-time faculty member, teaching political science online for the American Public University System (APUS). Also, since 2008, I’ve been an adjunct instructor of political science and history at La Roche College. Along the way, I’ve earned 30 credits toward a second master’s degree in military history, concentrating on World War II, from APUS’s American Military University division. I expect to have completed the coursework by the end of 2016. I have spent parts of three summers, 2010 through 2012, in the Netherlands. I studied local government there, and also gave presentations on the American form of government to the city council and senior civil servants of Sittard-Geleen. Of course, there were also side trips to Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg and France, with much enjoyment of the food and beer there. In January 2013, I bought a house. I’m now in West Deer, about six miles from where I grew up.”

1980
Democratic nominee David Wecht was elected to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. In the Nov. 3 election, Wecht won 18.4 percent of the vote among seven candidates, of which the top three were elected. He first served in public office in 2003 when he was elected as a judge for the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, then for the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, where he has served since 2012. From 2009 to 2011 he served as a Supreme Court of Pennsylvania Administrative Judge of the Family Division by appointment. In addition, Wecht has been an adjunct professor for the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and Internal Affairs since 2010 and an adjunct professor at Duquesne University Law School since 1997.

1981
Jim Perry writes: “Today finds me in my seventh year at Kiski. Who would have ever thought that would happen? I am busy teaching math (a switch from physics), coaching football and serving as one of three college counselors. In summer 2015, my oldest, Justice, started his freshman year at Duquesne, and I took my middle child, Morgan, on her college tour to prepare for her senior year at Fox Chapel High School. We visited Hobart & William Smith, Skidmore, Vassar, NYU, Columbia and Oberlin. My youngest, Xavier, started his seventh grade year at the Valley School of Ligonier and celebrated his 13th birthday at Fun Fest with his siblings. Finally, the summer (winter and spring for that matter) wouldn’t be complete without a visit to David Levy’s farm in Ohio. Dr. Levy taught me to drive a tractor and was standing by with his medical kit just in case. David, his wife Chiqui and their son, Ian, also came into Pittsburgh this summer and we all caught a Pirates game.”
1983
SSA best friends Ann Kim, Leslie Kilgore and David Eligator gathered at a San Francisco restaurant in late August to celebrate their milestone birthdays. They all live in the Bay Area and coincidentally have two sons each. David Garrett, you were missed!
Left to right: Theo and John Wooley, Ann Kim, Margherita and David Eligator and sons, Leslie Kilgore and Jonathan Leblang.

1981
Faith (Baran) Shoup and her husband, Marty, recently celebrated their 26th wedding anniversary. They have a son, Brandon, and a daughter, Shana.

Dan Shreiber is CEO of WearBands (WearBands.com), a resistance-training system which can enhance the exercise value of virtually any physical activity, suitable for use at any age. Dan and his wife have twins and live in Boulder, Colo.

1986
Rick Aranson, who has served as COO at Jewish Family & Career Services of Atlanta for the past 11 years, assumed the role of CEO on July 1, 2015. JF&CS provides health, career and human services to over 30,000 clients in need each year.

1987
Internet privacy expert Jonathan Zittrain joined the Just Security editorial board in October 2015. Just Security is an online forum for the rigorous analysis of U.S. national security law and policy, based at the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at New York University School of Law. Zittrain is the co-founder and faculty director of the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University, the George Bemis Professor of International Law at Harvard Law School and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, a professor of computer science at the Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and the director of the Harvard Law School Library.

1985
On Homecoming weekend, the SSA Senior School History Department and the Alumni Office welcomed Paul Seltman and David French to campus to share their experiences as lobbyists in Washington, D.C. Representing opposing political parties, Seltman and French shared advice for students interested in careers in politics, spoke about their proudest career moments, and encouraged students to remain active in political agendas. Seltman is a senior executive in government affairs with expertise in health care policy and more than 25 years of experience in Washington, D.C. French is a senior vice president for government relations at the National Retail Federation where as chief lobbyist he is responsible for developing and implementing advocacy strategy for the world’s largest retail association.
Heather (Thomas) McAdams recently co-authored Desolation Sound, a crime-thriller based on the real-life severed foot mystery in the Pacific Northwest. Also this year, the award-winning documentary The Search for Michael Rockefeller, which she co-produced, premiered on Netflix. The film was a labor of love and is based on found footage. It helps to answer some key questions in the decades-old unsolved mystery of what happened to Nelson Rockefeller’s son Michael when he disappeared in the wilds of New Guinea in 1961.

From Dan Olds: “After 17 years working in international education, I transitioned to the new role of director of alumni programs and associate director of engagement and annual philanthropy at Colby College. I hope to meet SSA alumni and students on campus soon. I can be reached at djolds@colby.edu.”

Steven Puller spoke to SSA Senior School economics students on Oct. 26. Presenting on the topic “This is Economics?,” Puller spoke about the various ways that economics is incorporated into daily life, including politics, relationships and travel, and answered student questions. Puller is an associate professor of economics at Texas A&M University. He holds an A.B. in economics from the University of Chicago and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of California at Berkeley.

Allison (Bellows) Tiernan welcomed daughter Cecilia in August 2015. She joined big brother Nicholas at home outside of Boston.

Tunde Adebimpe starred in the indie film Nasty Baby, which opened in theaters Oct. 23 and was released on iTunes and VOD Oct. 30. The film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January and won a Teddy Award at the 2015 Berlin International Film Festival. Adebimpe plays Mo, an artist living in Brooklyn and trying to have a baby with his partner, Freddy (Sebastian Silva). Adebimpe, best known as lead singer of the Brooklyn-based band TV on the Radio, is a musician, actor, director and animator.

Avinash Linganna and his wife, Roma, welcomed a son, Aditya, in April 2015. The family has also settled into their new home in Hampton Township, Pa.

Jesse Shapira is an executive producer of the movie Room, which opened in select cities Oct. 16 and nationwide Nov. 6. Based on the book by Emma Donoghue, Room is the story of a woman and her 5-year-old-son who are held captive for years and finally gain their freedom, allowing the boy to experience the outside world for the first time. The film has received numerous awards at film festivals around the world and earned four Oscar nominations, including Best Picture.

Candace (Otto) MacDonald writes: “On Feb. 5, 2015, we welcomed our daughter, Lauryn Pamela MacDonald, to our family.”

Meredith Boyle and fiancé chef Fernando Navas opened Balvanera Argentine restaurant on NYC’s Lower East Side in August 2014, with great reviews in its first year. SSA visiting friends can enjoy 20% off their dinner with a special reservation through Meredith at info@balvaneranyc.com.

From Joel Rubin: “I live in Chevy Chase, Md., with my wife, mother-in-law and three young daughters. I have worked for nearly 20 years in public service, spanning from service in the Peace Corps to most recently in the Obama administration as the deputy assistant secretary of state for legislative affairs, handling the House of Representatives. I’ve worked extensively on national security and climate change issues, ranging from supporting diplomacy with Iran to managing domestic solar energy programs. It’s been incredible.

And now, I’ve joined the race for the Democratic nomination for Congress from Maryland’s 8th district, to replace Congressman Chris Van Hollen, and the primary is scheduled for April 26, 2016. To learn more about my campaign, visit my website at www.JoelRubinForCongress.com.”
1991
The short film *Our Nation*, written, co-produced and with cinematography by David P. Mallin, premiered at the *Birth of an Answer* event in Norfolk, Va., on Sept. 18, 2015. From left to right: David Mallin, actor Connor Berry (*The Little Rascals Save the Day*), actress Marsha Stephanie Blake (*Orange is the New Black*), and director Derrick Borte (*The Joneses*).

1996
Geoffrey Melada married Natalie Rosenfelt on Oct. 11, 2015, in Washington, D.C. Celebrating with the couple were a host of SSA alumni, parents and friends, including Marc Melada ’00, John Shear, Doug Spear ’91 and wife Andrea Seed Spear, brother of Alex Seed ’98.

1998
Angela (Giorgianni) Adams graduated on Aug. 7, 2015, with Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) and Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) degrees from the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing. The ceremony was held at the University Club followed by family celebration at Monterey Bay Fish Grotto. Angela resides in Pittsburgh with her husband, Brian, daughter, Maria, and dog, Enzo. She currently works on the hematology oncology bone marrow transplant unit at UPMC Shadyside Hospital.

2005
Jake Klinvex and his wife, Susannah, welcomed their first child in March, Chapman Ridley Klinvex. Chap is not very good at sleeping, but he gives a lot of love.
2002

Noah Neiman '02 has worked (out) his way up the ranks of fitness experts, and is among a group of trainers featured on Bravo's new reality TV show, Work Out New York. The show premiered in December and goes inside the exclusive world of elite fitness training in New York City. The series follows the lives of a group of the city's hottest trainers, where competition for landing top clientele tests even the deepest of friendships. Learn more about Work Out New York at www.bravotv.com/work-out-new-york/about. Based out of New York City, Neiman began training for Barry's Bootcamp in 2011 and is also a Nike-endorsed trainer/fitness personality. He has appeared on a number of television shows, including Good Morning America, Nightline, Dr. Oz, The Meredith Vieira Show, E! News and in various media outlets such as The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Vanity Fair, Vogue, GQ, Shape, Elle Magazine, Glamour Magazine, In Style Magazine and Mr. Porter. Follow Noah on Twitter and Instagram at @noahdneiman.

2007

Lisa George, director of business development at School 4 One, married Ahmad Atwan, managing director, Morgan Stanley, in Miami Beach, Fla., at the Vizcaya Museum and Gardens on May 2, 2015. The wedding was attended by classmates (and bridesmaids!) Colby Capretto and Jacqueline Allen. The couple resides in New York City.

2008

Remington Jackson earned a B.A. in philosophy and political science from the College of Wooster in 2012. While there, Jackson played football, ran track & field, and earned the Remy Johnston Memorial Prize in Philosophy. He graduated from the University of Cincinnati College of Law in May 2015, where he served as the president of the Black Law Students Association, vice-chair of the Midwest Region of the National Black Law Students Association, reprint editor for the Immigration & Nationality Law Review, senior articles editor for the Human Rights Quarterly Journal, and a member of the Potter Stewart Inn of Court. Outside of school, Jackson has worked for the Ohio Attorney General’s Cincinnati Office, the University of Cincinnati Office of General Counsel, Cummins & Brown, LLC, and Chief Judge Jeffrey Hopkins of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court Southern District of Ohio. He also has thoroughly enjoyed his responsibility working with high school students in the Ohio Law and Leadership Institute, and several other short-term legal positions. Jackson recently completed the Ohio bar and is awaiting the results. He plans to reside in Cincinnati for the near future and will be taking a one-year in-house counsel position with Nationwide Bi-Weekly Administration, Inc.

2008

Hannah Foster and First Lieutenant Ian Quinn were married July 25, 2015, at the Church of the Ascension in Oakland. In attendance were SSA alums Ayse Baybars (bridesmaid), Emily (Harmon) Weimer (bridesmaid), Anna Rued Dorosh, Jack Foster and George Childs, current students Peter Foster '17 and Sam Childs '17, faculty/staff members Matt Weiss, Dave and Amy Szlachetka, and Bonnie McCarthy. Hannah and Ian reside in Colorado Springs where Ian, a graduate of West Point, is commissioned as an officer and ranger in the U.S. Army Infantry. In January, Hannah began an accelerated, one-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at The University of Colorado in Denver. She received a B.A. in English from Princeton University in 2012.

2011

Missy Wolz graduated cum laude from Duquesne University on May 8, 2015, with a major in biology and minors in mathematics and biochemistry, and was a member of the Honors College. She will be attending the West Virginia University School of Medicine as a member of the class of 2019.
2008

Emily Harmon and Daniel Weimer were married Aug. 29, 2015. The ceremony was held at First Lutheran Church in Pittsburgh, where the couple met in January 2013. The couple was grateful to have many Shady Side alums and students in attendance, including Emily's sister and matron of honor Marjorie (Harmon) Weiner ’06, bridesmaids Jennifer Dawson and Hannah (Foster) Quinn, groomsman Andrew Klein, Emily’s cousins, Roy Navid ’16, Walter Navid ’19 and Nora Navid ’21, and guests Peter Mathieson ’79 and Andrew Weber. Emily is a business analyst for UPMC and Daniel is a manufacturing engineer for Gibson Stainless & Specialty, Inc. The couple resides in Point Breeze and can see students playing at the Junior School from their front yard.

2013

Coleman Strohm played summer baseball for the Northfork Ospreys, which is part of the Hamptons Collegiate Baseball League.

2014

Sophie Abo, Lucy Buckman and Charlotte Verstraeten wrote an editorial for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette about a trip to Nepal during a “gap year” between SSA and college. The trio arrived in Nepal on April 25, 2015, and experienced the largest earthquake in the country’s history. The trio stated, “Recovery from the mental and physical damage will take decades. We are certain that the people of Nepal will climb out of the pit of destruction with the same resilience that enables them to climb some of the world’s highest mountains. It is our responsibility and privilege to continue to support Nepal’s recovery in the years to come. The media are quick to forget… We must not be.”
The Academy expresses its deepest sympathy to the families of the following Shady Side Academy alumni and friends. Although we are unable to include remembrances of all, we sincerely value the special involvement in and contributions to the Shady Side Academy community during their lives. These listings include all information received by Nov. 1, 2015.

WILLIAM B. SPENCER ’34
William Brundred Spencer passed away Dec. 11, 2014. He was co-founder of Black Top Paving Co. and served as president for 46 years. He also served as president of the Pennsylvania Asphalt Association and director of the National Asphalt Association. In 1935, Spencer married the late Jane Wiggins, with whom he had three children: Barbara (Howard) Benedict, William (Gwen) Spencer and the late Frank Spencer. Spencer married his second wife, Beverly Perry, in 1960, and had two children, Loring (Tim) Hart-Woods and the late Elizabeth Spencer. In addition to his five children, Spencer was the grandfather of nine, great-grandfather of 17 and great-great-grandfather of one.

HENRY P. HOFFSTOT JR. ’35
Henry Phipps Hoffstot Jr. passed away June 29, 2015. He earned his bachelor’s degree and law degree from Harvard University. He joined Reed Smith LLP, Pittsburgh, in 1942 but his employment was interrupted by the war. During Word War II, Hoffstot was a counterintelligence officer, speaking fluent German and serving on the secret Counter Intelligence Corps. The day after Adolf Hitler’s death was announced in 1945, counterintelligence officers learned Magnus von Braun and his famous brother, rocket scientist Wernher von Braun, wished to surrender to the American military. Once the von Brauns left their mountain hideout, Hoffstot arrested and guarded them, then to surrender to the American military. Once

DAVID S. KETCHUM ’37
David S. Ketchum passed away Oct. 10, 2015. Ketchum studied at Cornell University and served in the U.S. Army Air Force, where he was awarded the Soldier’s Medal for heroism, Bronze Star and Commendation Medal during World War II. When the war ended, he joined his father’s fundraising counseling firm, Ketchum Inc., where he later served as chairman and CEO from 1965 to 1982. He is survived by his wife, Sally D. Ketchum; two daughters, Laura Ketchum and Louise Ketchum; and four grandchildren.

PHILIP J. BERG ’40
Philip James Berg passed away June 17, 2015. Berg was a graduate of Lehigh University. He was also a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy during World War II and made three war patrols on the submarine U.S.S. Kingfish. He was employed by Dravo Corporation for 39 years and retired as executive vice president in 1985. He was predeceased by his wife of 52 years, Elizabeth Berg, and his second wife of 13 years, Margaret Berg. He is survived by his three children, Susan Gross, Margaret Anderson and Elizabeth Berg; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

ALBERT C. KUENTZ ’43
Albert Chamberlin Kuentz passed away March 20, 2015. Kuentz attended the College of Engineering at Carnegie Institute of Technology. Upon turning 18, he joined the U.S. Army. After the Army, he continued his education at Lehigh University and worked as a civil engineer for 40 years. After retirement, he earned a degree in art. He was predeceased by his wife, Teresa Kuentz. He is survived by his three children, Leonard Kuentz, Jonathan (Diana) Kuentz and Diana (Craig) Swing; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

WILLIAM RODEWALD ’46
William “Bill” Young Rodewald passed away Oct. 21, 2015. He was a graduate of Haverford College and Harvard Law School. He also served in the U.S. Army for three years, two of which were in Japan. Rodewald worked as a corporate tax attorney for Buchanan Ingersoll, Pittsburgh. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Elizabeth (Huff) Rodewald; two children, Ann (Peter) Steenkiste and John (May Gene) Rodewald; and two grandchildren, Elizabeth “Liejse” Steenkiste ’10 and Paul Steenkiste ’13.

JAMES PANGBURN ’49
James Pangburn passed away Sept. 25, 2015. Bode was a graduate of Bucknell University and worked as a senior executive for both Mellon and Girard Trust Banks. He was predeceased by his wife of 51 years, Janet Geller Pangburn. He is survived by his three children, Wendy Pangburn, Tom Pangburn and Judy (Ponder) Harrison; and six grandchildren.

FREDERICK W. BODE JR. ’40
Dr. Frederick W. Bode Jr. passed away May 12, 2015. Bode attended the University of Virginia and the Jefferson Medical College. He was also a captain in the U.S. Army and served in the Korean War. He was predeceased by his wife, Helen Baxter Bode; and his second wife, Lori Hosford Turner Bode. He is survived by his five children, Joanne Bode Perry, Ann (Mark) Biddison, Frederick (Leslie) Bode III, Thomas (Ruth-Ann) Bode and C. Baxter (Susan) Bode; 12 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

PHILIP J. BERG ’40
Philip James Berg passed away June 17, 2015. Berg was a graduate of Lehigh University. He was also a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy during World War II and made three war patrols on the submarine U.S.S. Kingfish. He was employed by Dravo Corporation for 39 years and retired as executive vice president in 1985. He was predeceased by his wife of 52 years, Elizabeth Berg, and his second wife of 13 years, Margaret Berg. He is survived by his three children, Susan Gross, Margaret Anderson and Elizabeth Berg; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.
RALPH W. CADMAN II ’50
Ralph W. Cadman II passed away Sept. 27, 2015. Cadman was a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. He was employed by Pittsburgh Piping, ARCO Metals, and retired in 1997 from Wheelabrator Industries. He also served as assistant chief in the Fox Chapel Fire Department. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Mimi Cadman; daughter, Casey (John) Buell and son, Ralph Wakefield and Kail Cadman; and many grandchildren.

J. WOOD OLIVER, JR. ’53
J. Wood “Woody” Oliver, Jr. passed away Aug. 1, 2015. He was a graduate of Yale University. Following graduation in 1957, he joined Mellon Bank, where he remained for his entire career. He was predeceased by his brothers, Otis Oliver ’55 and Cooper Oliver. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Lucy Israel Oliver; son, Joseph “Trip” (Amy) Oliver ’83, daughter, Margaret “Margie” (David) Marshall ’84; and four grandchildren.

JOHN D. EVANS ’57
Rev. John Duncan Evans III passed away June 29, 2015. He attended Harvard University, the University of Oxford, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and Drexel University. He served as pastor of an inner-city Philadelphia church with two congregations, Spanish and English. He served as teacher and librarian at Manna Bible Institute in Philadelphia, and organized a resource center in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Upon retirement he served as pastoral associate for Mission to the World and taught weekly Bible study for inmates at the Federal Detention Center in Philadelphia. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Vernelle Peterson Evans; children, Faith Evans-Sills (Francis), Dr. John Paul Evans (Louisa); and six grandchildren.

JAMES F. ROTENBERG ’64
James F. Rothenberg passed away July 21, 2015. He received his bachelor’s degree from Harvard University and an M.B.A from Harvard Business School. He was chairman of the Capital Group, as well as chairman of Harvard Management Co. Rothenberg, who joined Capital Group in 1970, oversaw the firm’s growth into a money manager that at its peak owned the world’s biggest mutual fund family, American Funds, and the biggest stock mutual fund, the Growth Fund of America. He is survived by his wife, Anne Rothenberg; three children, Catherine Rothenberg Wei, Erin Rothenberg Baker and Daniel H. Rothenberg; and six grandchildren.

FAMILY & FRIENDS
Charles Ahl, father of David Ahl ’65
Barbara Fisher, mother of Grace Fisher ’84; mother-in-law of former trustee Diane Fisher; and grandmother of Patrick Fisher ’03, George Fisher ’04, John Fisher ’08 and Michael Fisher ’09
Elsie Hillman, wife of Henry Hillman ’37
Soyina Runako Johnson, mother of Din Johnson ’20 and Jos Johnson ’25; sister of Kwame Williams ’94
Barry Lhormer, father of Marc Lhormer ’78, Jan Lhormer ’79 and Matthew Lhormer ’87
M. Lee Minter, father of Shea Minter ’15
Helen Posner, wife of the late Henry Posner Jr. ’37; mother of Henry Posner III ’73, James Posner ’75, Paul Posner ’77 and the late Robert Posner ’78
Barbara Rackoff, mother of Bill Rackoff ’67 and John Rackoff ’68; grandmother of Alumni Council member Peter Rackoff ’97
George Thompson Sr., father of George Thompson Jr. ’81 and Carolyn Molingowski ’82; father-in-law of Paul Molingowski ’84
Stephen Vukson, father of President’s Office staff member Debi Mauder

Note: All obituaries appearing in Shady Side Academy Magazine are edited to a consistent size and format.
Founded in 1957, the National Association of Rocketry (NAR) is the oldest and largest space-modeling organization in the world, currently boasting more than 100,000 members throughout the U.S. The Pittsburgh chapter of the NAR, known as the Steel City chapter, was co-founded in 1964 by SSA student Jerome “Jay” Apt III ’67, who also served as president of the club.

According to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, on Dec. 27, 1964, “the manicured grounds of Shady Side Academy in Fox Chapel were transformed into a miniature Cape Kennedy as SCRAM-1 got underway.”

SCRAM-1 (Steel City Rocket Aerial Meet) was the first meet of its kind to be held in the Pittsburgh region. Sixteen high school age contestants participated, entering 34 rockets in eight categories. Winners qualified for the NAR national championships based on a point system in which they competed against other rocket clubs throughout the country. The national event was held at NASA’s Space Flight Center in Beltsville, Md., in August 1965. Apt won five events at SCRAM-1 and qualified for nationals, where he went on to win a championship in the team category. He won his second national championship in 1967, again in the team category.

Apt’s interest in rocketry continued after graduation and he went on to earn his bachelor’s degree in physics from Harvard University and a doctorate in physics from MIT. In 1985 he was selected by NASA as an astronaut candidate, and qualified to become an astronaut after a year of training. He has spent more than 5,000 hours piloting aircrafts, flown on four space missions and logged more than 847 hours in space. Apt currently is a professor at Carnegie Mellon University’s Tepper School of Business and College of Engineering.

Shady Side went on to host a variety of rocket contests. Contests were typically held on the lower athletic fields, and onlookers enjoyed the view from the current location of the Grandizio Athletic Complex. Shady Side also had its own rocket club, which worked alongside the NAR Steel City chapter. In 1967, members of the SSA rocket club installed cameras in rockets, sent mice aloft, and even telemetered heart rates of animals as they traveled earthward using radio frequencies. The club also constructed its own wind tunnel on campus to simulate airborne conditions for experimental purposes.

Today, rocketry is still a blast for many Shady Side students. The Middle School rocketry team competes annually in the Team America Rocketry Challenge (TARC), the world’s largest rocket contest, which is sponsored by Aerospace Industries Association and the NAR. Apt serves a range safety officer at TARC.

If you were a part of the Rocket Club or have more information, please contact Lindsay Kovach at lkovach@shadysideacademy.org.

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